

QUAKERS NO CHRISTIANS:

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A Sober Request to the Quakers,

Published by

JER. IVES.

WHereas I have lately charged you in a publick Meeting, that you are *no Christians*, and that your Friends of the Ministry are meer *Impostors*, which Charge you have endeavoured to evade with various put-offs, Alleaging that it was besides the Business of the day; which is manifestly false: for, was it not the Business of the day to examine the Charge against *Tho. Hicks*? And was not this the first Article in your written Charge against him, that he writ a Dialogue between a *Quaker* and a *Christian*? Now this being the first general Article, what could be more material in order to his Vindication than for him to prove (or some one in his behalf, and the behalf of Christianity it self) that you are no Christians, nor worthy to bear so venerable a name? and if this be made manifest it can be no fault to oppose a *Quaker* to a *Christian*.

But when I still enforced this Charge, and by several motives pressed you to vindicate the honour of your Profession, by responding to what I had objected against you. *Wil. Pen* stands up and makes a Confession of his Faith in Scripture expressions, which while you declaredly own such Books (written by *Quakers*) as contain in them Doctrines no way reconcilable to Scripture-Language, or Christian-Religion, but are destructive both of the one and the other, as I am ready to prove, it plainly shews that this Confession was but a meer Equivocation (an old art of Deceivers; who by good words and fair speeches do the more effectually beguile the hearts of the Simple and less wary Hearers) for, what if your Discourses and Confessions of Faith be cloathed with Scripture-Language now more than formerly, this doth but render those Confessions to be gross Equivocations, unless you will renounce your former vile, absurd, and nonsensical Opinions, which I proved to your Face do make void all rules of Christian Faith and Practice. And when by force of Argument I had driven you to that strait that you could make no reply, and finding my self under some indisposition of body after nigh six hours discourse with three of you, I thought it advisable to quit the Meeting; which you making so ill an improvement of, for want of better Arguments *Will. Pen* crying out (as if he had been among the Boys in *Moor-fields*) *They run, they run*; others of you report as if I ran from the Charge, as being afraid or ashamed to own it: I say, your so base and insolent behaviour in my absence, who had nothing to the purpose to answer in my presence, gives me the occasion to let you know, that I am neither afraid nor ashamed to make full proof of what I have charged upon you, if you dare appoint a Time and Place for that purpose. And then appoint whom you will to Dispute the matter with me; provided none be admitted to speak but us two, unless it be to correct any disorders either in the Disputants or Auditors; as also that a certain hour be agreed on for the beginning, and another for the ending of the Disputation for that day; and that neither party shall exceed the limites of that time so agreed on, unless it be by mutual consent.

Upon these terms I earnestly request a Meeting with you to prove these two things against you.

1. That you are no Christians, what ever you pretend.
2. That your Friends of the Ministry (as you phrase it) are Impostors, False-Prophets, and men of lying Spirits.

Now if you shall not by all this be prevailed upon to meet according to this Request, I hope you will not take it unkindly if I conclude, that you that talk so much of the Light, care not how little you come at it, lest your folly should be made manifest; but if you take this for an unkind Conclusion, I hope this will please you (*viz*) that what ever you say of me, I shall pray that God would Convert you to Christianity; and Subscribe my self,

Your Friend, JER. IVES.

POSTSCRIPT.

This Meeting is desired to be distinct, without respect unto any Meeting that shall be agreed on between *Tho. Hicks*, and you, touching the matters you have objected against him.

Published with Allowance.